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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,

SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES

BRIEFING

EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

Bush to EU leaders: Turkey must be in the EU - Radikal
Istanbul a 'closed' city - Radikal
NATO agrees to train Iraqi forces - Radikal
Tough US-Turkey bargaining in Ankara - Yeni Safak
The World turns to Istanbul - Yeni Safak
Tens of thousands protest Bush in Dublin - Yeni Safak
Senator Lugar voices US requests - Yeni Safak
Bush's message to EU: Start negotiations with Turkey -
Hurriyet
Bush Supports Turkey's EU membership - Sabah
Bush to EU: Negotiation Process with Turkey Should Start -
Milliyet
NATO Summit Agony for People of Istanbul - DB Tercuman
Istanbul is captive of NATO summit - Takvim
Take Turkey into the Union, Bush says in Ireland - Vatan
'Closed for NATO' - Posta
Eisenhower Won Hearts, Bush Had the Roads Closed -- Referans

BRIEFING:

The Latest News From Anatolian News Agency:

3 Turks Kidnapped in Iraq: Militants loyal to Ebu Musab El Zarkavi, who kidnapped 3 Turkish workers in Iraq on Saturday, have called for mass demonstrations against US President George W. Bush to condemn the President's visit to Turkey. The militants, in a written statement to Al-Jazeera Television, said that if Turkish firms do not withdraw from Iraq within 72 hours, the hostages will risk being beheaded. They called on "the Muslim Turkish people to carry out mass demonstrations against Bush's visit to Turkey" and for "Turkish firms to stop doing business with US forces in Iraq." In a video tape shown on Al-Jazeera, 3 men holding their passports are seated in front of their 2 masked captors. It is not clear from the video when the men were kidnapped or where they were working. Turkish officials in Baghdad believe the men were kidnapped 2 days ago.

US President Bush Arrives in Ankara: US President George Bush has arrived in Ankara for official contacts in advance of the June 28-29 NATO Summit to be held in Istanbul. President Bush and his wife Laura, who arrived at Esenboga Airport following the US-EU Summit in Irerland, were met by State Minister Besir Atalay and his wife, Yildiz Atalay. The President was also welcomed by Turkey's Ambassador to Washington Faruk Logoglu, US Ambassador Eric Edelman, and Ankara Governor Yahya Gur. US Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice will accompany the President during his meetings in Ankara. The US delegation, which arrived on three separate planes, is made up of around 600 people. President Bush and his wife waved to the press as they descended the stairs from the airplane, and a bouquet of flowers was given to Mrs. Bush. President Bush did not make a statement at the airport before boarding his armored limousine and leaving the tarmac. Press interest in President Bush's visit to Ankara is high. Journalists arrived at the airport hours in advance of the arrival to undergo thorough security screening. While bomb-sniffing dogs inspected the cameras and equipment of press members, some journalists applauded in protest against the implementation of such security measures.

Bush will begin his official contacts tomorrow when he meets with Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan at the Prime Minister's residence. Secretary Powell and Foreign Minister Gul are expected to participate in the meeting. Mrs. Bush, meanwhile, will have a separate meeting with the spouses of PM Erdogan and FM Gul. Bush, who will then visit Anit Kabir, will later meet with President Ahmet Necdet Sezer. He will then participate in a working lunch at Cankaya

Palace. Bush and his delegation will depart for Istanbul following the lunch.

During Bush's visit to Ankara, it is expected that in addition to bilateral relations, subjects such as Iraq, the presence of a terrorist organization in northern Iraq, Cyprus, Turkey's EU membership drive, US Global Force Posture, the NATO Summit, the Middle East, and Afghanistan will be discussed. One of the most important items on the agenda will be the presence of the terrorist organization in northern Iraq. Turkey will once again remind the US of its expectations that the organization will be eliminated in Iraq, and will express its desire that concrete steps be taken on this issue. A greater consistency between words and deeds on this issue will be requested by the Turkish side. Turkey, which is expecting a gesture on the Cyprus issue, will ask that the US bring greater clarity to its commitment to support the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" in the aftermath of the April 24 referendum. In discussion about Turkey-EU relations, it is expected that President Bush will report on his contacts with EU officials in Ireland and renew US support for Turkey's EU process. The Turkish side, in discussions on Iraq, is expected to emphasize its sensitivities concerning Kirkuk and urge greater representation for Turkmen in the new Iraqi administration.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

POTUS Visit & NATO Summit

"Flowers and Bombs"

Erdal Safak commented in the mass appeal "Sabah" (5/27): "Clinton came to Ankara prior to the OSCE summit in Istanbul just like President Bush has done today: Bush arrived in Ankara in advance of the NATO summit in Istanbul. Yet there is one big difference that must be mentioned. Clinton was welcomed by flowers and a feeling of joy. Today, five years later, Bush comes under a cloud of bombs and protests. Five years ago, 75 percent of Turks held favorable views of the US. Today, anti-US feelings have reached 80 percent. This is the case not only for Turkey, but for the whole world. ... The NATO summit agenda includes many hot topics, which range from terror and chaos in Iraq to the deteriorating situation in Afghanistan. Additional agenda items include the fight against international terrorism and the deepening split between the US and Europe. NATO is also going to discuss the Middle East and try to find ways to promote democracy in the Greater Middle East region to eliminate the quagmire that constantly produces more terrorism. It remains to be seen whether NATO will succeed in creating a consensus to extinguish some of the ongoing fires. Otherwise, the Istanbul summit may remembered as the funeral for the Atlantic Alliance."

"Bush Fooled Ankara"

Sedat Ergin noted in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (5/27): "One of the reasons that the US President declared war against Iraq was to end the possibility that Iraq would become a base for terrorism. The PKK was considered as one of the terrorist organizations there, and Washington listed it as a terrorist organization on its annual list. The reports from Washington also acknowledged that northern Iraq is the PKK's main base. President Bush and other administration officials repeatedly assured Turkey that they understood Ankara's sensitivity regarding northern Iraq and pledged that the area would not be a haven for terrorists. ... Regarding words and deeds on this issue, the most significant step was a meeting in Ankara on September 12, 2003 between a Turkish delegation and US officials from the Pentagon, CIA and State Department. At that point, the US asked to deal with Mahmur camp first, and Turkey accepted this proposal with good intentions. However, US officials left the country without even signing an MOU. ... Four months ago, the State Department promised a letter from Secretary Powell to reiterate the US commitment about

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eliminating the PKK threat. As you read this column today, such a letter has never arrived. ... The gist of the problem is the US unwillingness to have a conflict with PKK, and the shift in US priorities due to broader security problems in Iraq. ... President Bush, in an interview prior to his trip to Ankara, made it clear that the PKK issue will be dealt in cooperation with both the Turkish and Iraqi governments. This is not a normal statement -- it is almost a kind of confession. It looks as if Bush is telling us that 'the ball is not in our court any more -- it is in the hands of the interim Iraqi government.' It is now a serious question how sincere President Bush will be during his talks in Ankara after making such a negative impression on the terrorism threat faced by Turkey."

"The World is a Whole, and Cannot be Separated"

Nazif Gurdogan opined in the Islamist-opinion maker "Yeni Safak" (6/27): "The security of Europe and the US depends

on the security of the Islamic world. As long as the bloodshed continues in East Turkistan, Khasmir, Chechnia, Afghanistan, Iraq and Palestine, it is not possible for Europe and the US to live in peace. No country can remain within its own borders without being affected by the wars of the world. The world has turned into a single country with multiple cultures. It looks as if the world will claim the inheritance of the Ottoman Empire by having people of different religions, colors and creeds live together in peace. No country in the world can close its doors to people from different races and religions. Borders have been lifted not only between European countries, but between all countries in the world. The countries that try to protect their borders with wiring, mines or troops will only create new wars. The world is a whole -- east, west, north and south. One part of it cannot be happy while the other part cries. NATO must defend peace for the entire world, not only for the west. There will be no peace without the Islamic world."

"NATO to march to Iraq"

Muharrem Sarikaya observed in the mass appeal "Sabah" (6/27): "NATO Secretary General Scheffer recently said that NATO would not turn down a call by the new Iraqi government scheduled to take over authority in Iraq after June 30. . Non-NATO member countries will also be allowed to participate in the peacekeeping force in Iraq. Some Muslim countries outside of NATO will also join the mission. . The interim Iraqi authority will be replaced by an elected government before the end of this year. NATO will take action when called on to do so by a government elected by the Iraqi people -- not by a government formed by the US. Whatever the case, NATO will have to enter Iraq early next year. This time it will be difficult for Turkey, which has served successfully in missions in Afghanistan and Bosnia-Herzegovina, to refrain from joining the peacekeeping force in Iraq."

"Sezer to warn Bush on Loss of US Credibility"

Murat Yetkin commented in the intellectual/opinion maker "Radikal" (6/27): "President Sezer will urge President Bush to take new steps forward regarding the PKK and Cyprus in order to retain US credibility in Turkey. . 'We don't see any difference between Al-Qaeda terrorism and that of the PKK,' said a high-level Turkish source, adding that US officials are saying the same thing in their public statements. 'However, we are still waiting for the Americans to meet their pledges to remove the PKK presence in northern Iraq,' he stressed. . He added that, despite some attempts to lift international sanctions against Turkish Cypriots, no concrete steps have yet been taken. . PM Erdogan will discuss with President Bush the need to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity, keep Kirkuk out of the Kurds' control, and guarantee an adequate representation of Turkmen in the new Iraqi administration. . The Greater Middle East (GME) project has been made more mature by the inclusion of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in the initiative, and by accepting Turkey as a democratic, secular partner. . Erdogan is aware that his criticism of the Israeli administration's policies in Palestine have had a negative effect on the Jewish community in the US. Still, he will insist on a resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at his meeting with Bush. . The reopening of the Halki Seminary and Turkey's relations with Armenia are also expected to be raised at the meeting."

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